

REMARKS

The basis for the objection of claims 10 and 12 has been overcome by removing “e” at the end of line 13 in claim 10, and replacing the “.” in line 9 of claim 12 with a semicolon.

The basis of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been overcome by clarifying the preamble to state that power is transmitted to the vehicle wheels through a transfer case.

Claim 2 is canceled.

The lack of antecedent basis for “the transmission” in claim 3 has corrected, and the elements of claim 3 have been integrated with claim 1, and claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended such that a casing is fixed against rotation rather than a transfer case, thereby making claim 7 compatible with the specification. Similarly, the coupler is adapted for connection to the casing.

Claim 8 is canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended so that the lack of antecedent basis for “the transmission” has been overcome. Each element of claim 9 is integrated with claim 7, and claim 9 is canceled.

Claim 13 has been amended such that a casing is fixed against rotation rather than the transfer case.

Although the Office action says that, “the connector,” and “the gear selector” lack antecedent bases in claim 15, their antecedents are present in claim 13, which has been amended to integrate all of the elements of claim 14.

Claim 14 is canceled.

The Office action indicated that claims 3-6, 9-12 and 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 126, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described above the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph have been corrected. All of the elements of claim 3 have been integrated into claim 1. All of the elements of claim 9 have been integrated into claim 7, and all of the elements of claim 14 have been integrated into claim 13.

The claims of the application appear now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. McKenzie, Reg. No. 29,242
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(734) 542-0900
(734) 542-9569 (fax)